

NEW YORK TIMES 13 January 1982 Pg. B22

President Moves to Curb Unauthorized Disclosures

By PHIL GAILEY

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 — President Reagan, asserting that unauthorized disclosures of classified material had hampered the conduct of foreign policy, today ordered a series of measures to protect national security information.

In a statement released by the White House, Mr. Reagan said the unauthorized disclosure of classified information had become a "problem of major proportions" and vowed to use "all legal means" to identify and discipline officials who violated the new rules.

The President ordered that these steps be taken:

¶Any official involved in national security policy will be required to obtain approval from a senior official before talking to a reporter. After the interview, the official will have to write a memorandum on what matters were discussed.

¶The number of officials with access to national security and intelligence information will be kept "to the minimum essential to the orderly conduct of the Government's business," the statement said.

¶When an unauthorized disclosure occurs, all Government employees with access to the information will be subject to investigation. Mr. Reagan said "all legal means" would be used to identify the source of the disclosure. White House officials declined to elaborate.

The President's directive will apply to all national security officials in the executive branch, including those in the State and Defense Departments.

In his statement, Mr. Reagan said he was mindful of the Constitution's guarantees on freedom of the press and individual liberties and said he would attempt to carry out the directive in "a balanced and careful manner."

"I do not believe, however," Mr. Reagan added, "that the Constitution entitles Government employees, entrusted with confidential information critical to the functioning and effectiveness of the Government, to disclose such information with impunity. Yet this is precisely the situation we have. It must not be allowed to continue."

David R. Gergen, White House communications director, said some of the disclosures that had caused the President to act had resulted in the compromise of sensitive intelligence sources and information, including some cases where lives were endangered.

Disclosure on Taiwan Cited

Pressed for an example, Mr. Gergen cited the disclosure of the Administration's decision not to sell advanced military aircraft to Taiwan.

He said the details for the enforcement of the new policy were still being worked out, such as whether the Federal Bureau of Investigation would be used

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National Security Statement

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 — Following is the text of a statement by President Reagan on protection of classified National Security Council and intelligence information:

Unauthorized disclosure of classified information under the jurisdiction of the National Security Council and of classified intelligence reports is a problem of major proportions within the U.S. Government.

The Constitution of the United States provides for the protection of individual rights and liberties, including freedom of speech and freedom of the press, but it also requires that Government functions be discharged efficiently and effectively, especially where the national security is involved.

As President of the United States, I am responsible for honoring both Constitutional requirements, and I intend to do so in a balanced and careful manner. I do not believe, however, that the Constitution entitles Government employees, entrusted with confidential information critical to the functioning and effectiveness of the Government, to disclose such information with impunity. Yet this is precisely the situation we have. It must not be allowed to continue.

To this end, I hereby establish and direct implementation of the following policies.

CONTACTS WITH THE MEDIA: All contacts with any element of the news media in which classified National Security Council matters or classified intelligence information are discussed will require the advance approval of a senior official. An administrative memorandum will be prepared as soon as possible after the contact, recording the subjects discussed and

all information provided to the media representatives.

ACCESS: The unauthorized disclosure of classified National Security Council information, documents, and deliberations requires further control to limit access and to ensure an accurate record of those who have had access. The number of officials with access to documents relating to N.S.C. matters will be kept to the minimum essential to the orderly conduct of the Government's business.

INVESTIGATIONS: The Government's lack of success in identifying the sources of unauthorized disclosure of classified National Security Council information and documents of classified intelligence information must be remedied and appropriate disciplinary measures taken. Henceforth, in the event of unauthorized disclosure of such information, Government employees who have had access to that information will be subject to investigation, to include the use of all legal methods.

APPLICABILITY AND IMPLEMENTATION: The provisions of this directive shall be effective immediately and shall apply to all employees of, and elements within agencies participating in the National Security Council system, including the Executive Office of the President. The assistant to the President for national security affairs is directed to establish the detailed procedures to implement policies.

to investigate violations and how to restrict the number of officials with access to classified information.

Mr. Gergen, in response to questions, said the Administration did not anticipate "a vast expansion of classified information" under the policy, which he said would apply to material ranging from "top secret" to "confidential."

Beyond that, White House officials said Mr. Reagan felt that the disclosures were hampering the Administration's ability to conduct foreign policy. In a supporting statement released at the same time by the White House, William P. Clark Jr., the President's new national security adviser, said that in some cases the publication of classified

information "rules out a foreign policy option, or jeopardizes an ongoing policy."

Mr. Clark said that reporters had been doing a better job of collecting classified information than Government officials had in protecting it, adding, "These limited measures are designed to restore a balance that has been lost."

Asked if Mr. Reagan was following the example of President Nixon, who authorized a group called the "White House plumbers" to investigate "leaks" to the media, Mr. Gergen replied, "Every President has been concerned about this problem. Every President has taken remedial steps to deal with it. This President is attempting to do it."

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Asked if all requests for interviews would have to be approved, the officials said the restriction was limited to those dealing with classified subjects.

When it was pointed out that reporters are not cleared for classified information and do not routinely ask to discuss it, the officials said, "Let's see how that works out."

Reporters were summoned on short notice to the White House to receive the Reagan and Clark statements and an announcement of the new NSC "structure," which officials said was basically "a restatement of what now exists."

Supporting their view that leaks were hampering administration policy, the officials read another statement that claimed "some leaks have resulted in the compromise of sensitive intelligence sources and methods, in some cases endangering lives. Secondly, in several important cases, leaks to the press have preceded presidential discussions of highly sensitive foreign policy decisions," thereby reducing the president's options. No examples were provided.

Aides Take Lie Detector Test

Pentagon Probing Leak of Secret Report

Deputy Defense Secretary Frank C. Carlucci has voluntarily taken a lie detector test as part of a Pentagon investigation to determine who told The Washington Post about a secret report last week. The report said that, as the Joint Chiefs of Staff have translated the Reagan plan to rearm America, it could cost \$750 billion more than now projected.

Henry E. Catto Jr., assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, confirmed to The Post yesterday that Carlucci and several other members of the Defense Resources Board, which includes the top Pentagon civilians, have taken the lie detector test so far in the probe.

The Defense Resources Board met last Thursday to hear a briefing from Pentagon research director Richard D. DeLauer about the mismatch between military strategy and the money earmarked to carry it out.

DeLauer used as one of his yardsticks the Joint Strategic Planning Document in which the Joint Chiefs of Staff give their estimate of the forces needed to carry out the policies of their civilian superiors and prepare for contingencies around the world. DeLauer's report estimated it could take up to \$750 billion more in fiscal 1983 dollars than the \$1.5 trillion already projected for fiscal 1984 through 1988 to buy all those forces.

The Post reported these figures on Friday after confirming with the Pentagon that the part of the

DeLauer report it published was accurate. The Post story also reported that Navy Secretary John F. Lehman Jr. took heated exception during the Defense Resources Board discussion to the assertion that there was not enough money in sight to build the 600-ship Navy that President Reagan has set as a goal.

Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger on the Cable News Network "Newsmaker" program broadcast Saturday said "that story was based on classified information presented to the Defense Review [sic] Board in closed session," adding that the \$750 billion represented "a large number of wants unconstrained by any financial restrictions or restraints of what all of the services combined, consolidated, feel they might want to have if there were no fiscal constraints."

Catto, when asked what was so sensitive from a security standpoint about the behind-closed-doors budget discussion, replied that "what is so upsetting to us" was not security breaches but the fact "someone on the team" would talk about what went on.

Catto said that Weinberger has not taken the lie detector test because he was not at the Thursday meeting chaired by Carlucci. Carlucci, former deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, ordered the investigation to try to find how The Post learned about what went on during the closed meeting, Catto said.